AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

18. (Currently Amended) A method for developing failure prediction software for a

storage system, the method comprising:

assisting a user in generating a failure prediction algorithm comprising fuzzy logic

rules, the failure prediction algorithm stored in a natural language format;

generating machine-readable code from the stored failure prediction algorithm in

response to user input;

testing the machine-readable code with sample data to produce a result in response

to user input; and

selectively revising the failure prediction algorithm in response to user input such

that the result corresponds to an expected result.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the fuzzy logic rules comprise linguistic

variables having less than four terms.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein certain linguistic variables comprise less

than three terms.

21. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising tuning the failure prediction

algorithm by adjusting a fuzzy variable definition.

22. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the machine-readable code is configured to execute on a storage system.

23. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising revising the failure prediction algorithm by way of a text editor.

24. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein the fuzzy logic rules are defined by conditional statements that include subjects, adjectives, and verbs familiar to personnel in the storage system field.

25. (Previously Presented) A method for predicting component failure within a storage system, the method comprising:

    gathering performance data for a storage system;

    executing a failure prediction algorithm on the performance data to produce a result, the failure prediction algorithm comprising fuzzy logic rules;

    tuning the failure prediction algorithm by adjusting a fuzzy variable definition; and

    selectively forecasting failure of one or more components of the storage system in response to the result.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising mapping the result to one of a plurality of predefined recommendations.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising producing a notification in response to the result.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, further comprising pre-processing performance data to provide input data for the failure prediction algorithm.

Claims 30-40 (Cancelled).